

AMENDMENTS

Please enter the following amendments without prejudice or disclaimer.

In the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at p. 13, line 3 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 31. Scheme for Using Hammerhead Ribozymes to Detect any Molecule.

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Fig. 31 presents a scheme for using a hammerhead ribozyme to detect the presence of any molecule (filled oval), which upon encountering the probe, assembles an aptamer from dangling ends to which it specifically binds, thereby stabilizing the active conformation of a ribozyme. Subsequent cleavage detected by any of several techniques such as release of biotin from a solid support.

In the Claims

Please add claims 24-49, as follows:

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| 24. (New) | A method as in claim 23, wherein the substrate is also bound to the target. |
| 25. (New) | A method as in claim 23, wherein the target molecule is a polynucleotide. |
| 26. (New) | A method as in claim 23, wherein the target molecule is DNA. |
| 27. (New) | A method as in claim 23, wherein the target molecule is RNA. |
| 28. (New) | A method as in claim 23, wherein the target molecule is ssDNA. |
| 29. (New) | A method as in claim 23, wherein the target molecule is a polypeptide. |
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